

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed November 28, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 8, 31-33, 36, and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Knauerhase, et al.* ("Knauerhase," U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0021663). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Knauerhase reference is not prior art as to Applicant's claims for reasons described in the included 131 Affidavit (Exhibit A). Specifically, Applicant conceived of the claimed inventions prior to the effective date of the Knauerhase reference, and Applicant diligently pursued patent protection for those inventions from a time prior to that effective date to Applicant's own filing date. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5, 24, 37, and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knauerhase* in view of *Pfitzner* (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0215826). Applicant respectfully traverses.

As identified above, the Knauerhase reference is not prior art as to Applicant's claims for reasons described in the included 131 Affidavit (Exhibit A). Specifically, Applicant conceived of the claimed inventions prior to the effective date of the

Knauerhase reference, and Applicant diligently pursued patent protection for those inventions from a time prior to that effective date to Applicant's own filing date. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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